

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Rep. Boucher Named to White House Conference on Aging**



State Rep. Toni Boucher, R-143<sup>rd</sup>, Wilton, Norwalk, has been appointed an at-large delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging to be held December 11-14 in Washington, DC.

The theme for the 2005 conference will be “The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action.” The White House conference helps the president and Congress develop policies for the next 10 years and beyond.

“Aging is the issue of the day,” said Rep. Boucher. “The population is growing older, with health, prescription drug and quality of life implications. This is matter of concern for our own families, for society as a whole and for government leaders in every state.”

Rep. Boucher noted that one of the fastest growing age groups is people over 80 years old. “Life expectancy has increased by 30 years since the early 90s. It may be conceivable that a baby born today could live well beyond 100. Many geneticists tell us that about 30 percent of our life expectancy depends on genetic make-up. The other 70 percent may be determined by environment, personal behavior such as smoking or risk taking, and scientific advancements.”

She added, “There is no question that people will be with us longer and longer. This creates advantages and challenges. As modern medicine helps people live longer and better, we will have the benefit of their knowledge and experience gained through their lives.”

“At the same time, aging creates issues relating to health, home care, transportation and the like,” added Rep. Boucher. “We as government officials need to be sure the older population can live independently as long as possible.”

The White House conference has been in existence since 1961. Rep. Boucher said, “The conference is expected to be visionary and innovative in considering strategies for the future. At the same time, the conference will consider strategies that are realistic and able to be implemented.”

Rep. Boucher is assistant minority leader in the state house of Representatives. She serves the 143<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District of Wilton and Norwalk and is a member of the Appropriations, Education and Transportation committees.